

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 210700Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1303

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T JIDDA 3602

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA, US

SUBJ: SAUDI REACTION TO SECRETARY SCHELSINGER'S STATEMENTS

ON USING FORCE IN MIDDLE EAST

SECRET

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REF : A. STATE 115497; B. JIDDA 3543; C. STATE 116290;
D. JIDDA 3587; E. JIDDA 3588

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMAD MAS'UD CALLED THE AMBASSADOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS AFTERNOON (MAY 20) TO INQUIRE FURTHER ABOUT STATEMENTS MADE BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ON MAY 19. THE AMBASSADOR GAVE HIM COPIES OF THE TRANSCRIPTS (REF C) AND SAID THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE LITTLE NEW IN THEM. SIMILAR STATEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE AND HE HOPED THE SAUDIS WOULD NOT BE TOO DISTURBED.

2. MAS'UD SAID THE SAUDIS, "ALONG WITH OTHER ARABS," WERE DISTURBED; THAT THE STATEMENTS SEEMED "THE WORST YET." MAS'UD SAID THE INVASION THREATS KEPT COMING UP AND NO SOONER DID THINGS CALM DOWN WOULD SOME AMERICAN OFFICIAL REOPEN THE ISSUE. HE SAID THE AMBASSADOR WAS WRONG IN SAYING THAT THE SCHLESINGER STATEMENT WAS NOT AN ESCALATION OF RHETORIC; INVASION HAD NEVER BEEN CONNECTED WITH THE OIL BOYCOTT BEFORE; IN FACT, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD SAID AN OIL BOYCOTT, SUCH AS WAS IMPOSED IN 1973, WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES BE CONSIDERED "STRANGULATION"; AND IT WAS ONLY IN THE LATTER CASE THAT THE USE OF FORCE WOULD BE CONTEMPLATED. NOW WE WERE INCREASING OUR THREATS. HE ASKED IF WE WOULD INVADE WHEN OPEC RAISES OIL PRICES.

3. MAS'UD SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. DID NOT THINK SUCH STATEMENTS WOULD HELP SAUDI ARABIA IN ITS EFFORTS TO KEEP THE LID ON OIL PRICES, NOR WOULD IT HELP SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS EFFORTS TO REACH A JUST PEACE IN THE AREA. "IT WOULD ONLY SERVE THE RADICALS AND THE COMMUNISTS."
AKINS

SECRET

NNN

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